Dolgelley Urban District Council

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1944.

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TO THE DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rees & Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report upon the Sanitary conditions of your Area for the year ended 31st December, 1944.

The resident population of the Urban Area for the year 1944 is estimated by the Registrar-General to be 2,440.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944 according to the Rate Books was 680.

The rateable value at the same date was £10,038, and the sum represented by a penny product was £38 : 11 : 1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	26	12	14
Illegitimate	2	2	—
Still Births :			
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

General Death Rate	15.57
Total Tuberculosis death rate	1.23
'Phthisis' death rate	0.82
Cancer death rate...	2.46
Birth rate	11.47
Still birth rate	0.82
Scarlet Fever death rate	—
Diphtheria death rate	—

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still Births).

Still birth rate	66.66
Maternal Mortality Total	—
Sepsis	—
Other forms	—

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Infant Mortality Total	—
Legitimate Infants...	—
Illegitimate Infants	—
Diarrhoea under two years	—

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

1 M.O.H. (part-time); 1 Sanitary Inspector (Certificated). Full-time in conjunction with Dolgelley Rural District.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service is controlled by a joint committee of the Dolgelley Urban and Rural Districts and the Barmouth Urban District Council. An ambulance to serve the three areas is stationed at Dolgelley.

During the war the Red Cross Ambulance Service was very active in the district, and I should like to take this opportunity of testifying to their efficiency at all times of day and night. It is hoped that the personel of the Red Cross Service will continue to give service as voluntary attendants with the ambulance of the Local Authority. Also an endeavour is being made to get a rota of first-aid men to act as stretcher-bearers when required.

WATER.

Water is supplied by a private company. I again emphasise the importance that such an essential commodity as water should be vested in the hands of the Local Authority.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The condition of the sewers during the year has been good. During the greater part of the year an enormous volume of water from the surrounding mountains is turned into them, and they are thus effectively flushed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There was no pollution of rivers and streams during the past year in this area beyond that produced by a few careless inhabitants who throw small quantities of some kind of waste material or rubbish in them at times. There is no excuse for this as the district is systematically scavenged three times every week. There are no large industries in the district to produce any material pollution.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The great majority of the houses have separate water closets, with proper flushing apparatus.

Water closets	516
Conservancy system...	10

The dry closets are on the outskirts of the town, and their contents are disposed of in the gardens.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging is done by contract, and the house refuse is collected three times a week by a motor lorry during the morning.

I have repeatedly called the attention of this Authority to the need of a cover for the lorry when in use.

The receptacles used by some of the inhabitants are altogether unsatisfactory. The old boxes, hampers, pails, etc., at present seen in use, are most objectionable. These receptacles should be made of galvanised iron with well-fitting metallic covers to insure protection from the sun and air. A satisfactory solution to this problem will not be reached until the Local Authority provides and maintains standard ash-bins in place of the boxes, pails, etc., in common use.

The refuse is taken to a tip provided by the Council about a mile outside town, along the Talyllyn Road. A constant endeavour is being made by the Council's staff to effect controlled tipping, but an open tip used by contractors, shop-keepers, etc., is objectionable, unsightly, and a bad advertisement to the town.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1944.

Total number of formal notices issued	0
number complied with	0
Total number of informal notices issued	4
number complied with	4
Total number of new houses completed	0
Number of plans—new houses, buildings	0
Visits to bake-houses	9
Number of notices re defects	1
Visits to cowsheds	5
Number of visits re defects	1
Number of visits to Milk Shops	0
Number of notices re defects	0
Visits to dairies	6
Number of visits re defects	0
Visits to slaughter houses	62
Number of notices re defects	0

Notice re removal of ashes	0
Notice re defective drains	6
Number of visits to cases of infectious diseases	0
Number of houses disinfected	0
Notice of defective water fittings	0
Number of pail closets converted into W.C.	0
Number of new water closets erected...	1
Total number of water closets	516
Pail closets	0
Privies or other closets	11
Number of closets serving more than one house... ...	9

Shops.

There was no action necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

There is no nuisance from smoke in this district, and no action was needed.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action was necessary during the past year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public or privately-owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

Camping Sites.

No licences have been issued in respect of camping sites.

Schools.

The co-operation of the School Medical Officer is always secured in dealing with any matters pertaining to the Schools, and the scholars.

HOUSING.

There is a desperate need of new houses in the area. Many of the older houses are totally unfit for human habitation.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	40
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	48

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ... nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... nil

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... nil

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... nil

(a) By Owners ... ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By Owners ... ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or under

ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... ... ... nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—
No action was possible during the war

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

Very little milk is produced within the area, and the bulk of it is imported from the immediate neighbourhood. The Cowsheds and Dairies are periodically inspected. There is need for structural improvements in some of the cowsheds. The dairies and cowsheds are kept clean and are periodically lime-washed.

No action was taken by this Authority during the year in regard to tuberculous milk or cattle.

There are four producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk, who supply this area.

Meat.

All the slaughtering is now carried out at the abottoir situated in the town.

Bakehouses.

These were inspected and found to be clean and periodically lime-washed.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

There was no need of this during the past year.

Shell Fish.

There are no shell-fish or layers in this area.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—

Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—

There is no hospital in the County for the isolation of Infectious Diseases. The temporary isolation hospital at Colomendy, Corwen, served a very real need. Personally, I would favour a scheme whereby three or more counties joined to have an isolation hospital. Until this matures—there should certainly be a provision within the County to receive infectious cases.

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1944 are as follows :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered to me during the past year by our Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Idwal Roberts.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. W. EDWARDS,

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Gwyndy,
Dolgelley.
July, 1945.